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Message Text

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02

NSC-05 PM-03 ACDA-05 SSO-00 DODE-00 /052 W
---------- 130809
O R 141350Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8461
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 09344

E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, US, UK, FR
SUBJECT: BONN GROUP CONSULTATION

REF: (A) BONN 5779; (B) STATE 58094

1. SUMMARY: INFORMAL QUAI REACTION HAS BEEN COOL TO OUR PROPOSED PROCEDURES FOR MORE PLANNING AND ANALYSIS REGARDING BERLIN IN BONN GROUP. WHILE FRENCH SEE NEED FOR LONG RANGE THINKING ON BERLIN, THEY ARE NOT ATTRACTED TO IDEA OF INSTITUTIONALIZED, SEMI-ANNUAL PAPERS FOR QUADRIPARTITE DINNER. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO CANDID AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF HOW BEST TO TACKLE THIS PARTICULAR ASPECT OF BONN GROUP CONSULTATION IN CREATIVE WAY. END SUMMARY.

2. REFERRING TO IDEAS SUGGESTED IN REF B, WE RECENTLY ASKED PLAISANT (QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS) WHETHER HE HAD FOCUSED ON OUR PROPOSAL TO MOVE BONN GROUP CONSULTATIONS SOMEWHAT AWAY FROM THE "CRISIS MANAGEMENT" FOCUS OF RECENT YEARS. PLAISANT SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE THOUGHT THAT
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HAD GONE INTO OUR INITIATIVE AS DESCRIBED IN REF B. HE,

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TOO, HAS THE FEELING THAT MORE ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO LONG TERM ANALYSIS AND PLANNING CONCERNING BERLIN. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS WITH THE MORE INSTITUTIONALIZED PROCEDURE ENVISIONED IN OUR PROPOSAL. HE HAS PREPARED A RECOMMENDATION ON THE SUBJECT FOR EVENTUAL PRESENTATION IN THE BONN GROUP, BUT HIS QUAI SUPERIORS HAVE NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO FOCUS ON HIS PAPER.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, PLAISANT VOLUNTEERED TO SHARE WITH US HIS PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT WHICH, AS SUGGESTED IN THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH, ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE FINAL WORD CONCERNING THE FORMAL FRENCH COMMENTARY.

4. FOCUSING ON THE CONCEPT THAT A FORMAL PAPER "WOULD NOT BE BINDING" (REF B, PARA 6-C), PLAISANT SAID HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW A PAPER -- DISCUSSED BY MINISTERS -- COULD BE ANYTHING BUT "BINDING" IN TERMS OF THE REAL-LIFE, DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE BONN GROUP. CONSEQUENTLY, HE FEARS THAT THIS WOULD INJECT A NEW SENSE OF RIGIDITY INTO BONN GROUP CONSULTATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL IN THE PAST LARGELY BECAUSE OF THEIR FLEXIBILITY.

5. MOREOVER, FROM A STRICTLY ADMINISTRATIVE POINT OF VIEW, PLAISANT EXPECTS THAT THE RUSH TO PREPARE SUCH POLICY PAPERS IN TIME FOR THE SEMI-ANNUAL QUADRI-PARTITE DINNERS MIGHT WELL LEAD TO LAST-MINUTE, HASTILY REVISED LANGUAGE TO MEET ARTIFICIAL DEADLINE. THIS COULD PRODUCE PAPERS THAT WERE EITHER TOO ANODYNE TO BE OF ANY REAL IMPORTANCE OR, ON THE OTHER HAND, SUFFICIENTLY CONTENTIOUS TO INVOLVE THE MINISTERS IN A RE-DRAFTING PROCESS IN THE COURSE OF THEIR QUADRIPARTITE DINNER (NEITHER OF WHICH WAS ATTRACTIVE TO PLAISANT).

6. FINALLY, PLAISANT OBSERVED THAT HE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO OVERLOAD EITHER THE BONN GROUP OR THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH THE NEED TO PREPARE YET ANOTHER SERIES OF PAPERS ON TOP OF AN ALREADY FULL AGENDA IMPOSED BY THE CONSTANT BARRAGE OF BERLIN PROB-
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LEMS.

7. ON A MORE POSITIVE NOTE, HE SAID THAT HE COULD SEE A ROLE FOR AN "INVENTORY" OF PROBLEMS THAT HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THE LAST QUADRIPARTITE DINNER, TO BE USED AS A JUMPING OFF POINT FOR QUADRIPARTITE DINNER DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES. SUCH A PAPER (BEGIN FYI - WHICH PLAISANT TELLS US HAS BEEN SUGGESTED INFORMALLY TO HIM

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BY UK EMBASSY REP IN PARIS - END FYI) NEED NOT BE
SIMPLY A FACTUAL INDEX, BUT COULD ALSO INCLUDE COMMENT-
ARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL ACTION. FOR
EXAMPLE, IT COULD FOCUS ON THREE OR FOUR KEY PROBLEMS --

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NSC-05 PM-03 ACDA-05 SSO-00 DODE-00 /052 W
---------- 130816
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 09344

WHICH MIGHT WELL BE RECURRING PROBLEMS THAT WOULD BEAR
DIRECTLY ON LONG TERM QUESTION OF BERLIN'S FUTURE, AND
MIGHT BE TREATED IN A RELATIVELY SHORT (FOUR PAGES)
REPORT.

8. COMMENT: THE ABOVE COMMENTS ARE PLAISANT'S PERSONAL
VIEWS. IN THE PAST, HOWEVER, WE HAVE FOUND CLOSE
CONGRUENCE BETWEEN INFORMAL VIEWS OF PLAISANT AND
THOSE OF SAUVAGNARGUES ON BERLIN MATTERS. FROM OUR DIS-
CUSSION WITH PLAISANT, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE,
TOO, IS SEIZED WITH A CONCERN OVER HOW MOST APPROPRI-
ATELY TO ADDRESS THE LONG-RANGE POLICY PLANNING AND
ANALYSIS ASPECTS OF BERLIN'S FUTURE, PARTICULARLY
RELATING TO THE FRG/EC ROLES IN BERLIN AS DESCRIBED IN

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PARIS 9258 AND PARIS 6764. WHILE HE DOES NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY ATTRACTED TO OUR FORMULA FOR MEETING THIS NEED, WE BELIEVE THAT HE -- AND PROBABLY HIS FOREIGN MINISTER -- WOULD BE OPEN TO A CANDID AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF HOW BEST TO TACKLE THIS PARTICULAR ASPECT OF BONN GROUP CONSULTATION IN A WAY THAT AVOIDS THE POTEN-
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TIAL NEGATIVE SIDE EFFECTS MENTIONED ABOVE.
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